Erulappapuram tank.

82. ✻MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received any representations from Erulappapuram in the Agastisvaram taluk for the completion of the tank with baths or *padturai* ;

(*b*) if so, whether they have taken any steps for the same : and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, why ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The improvement to the tank and construction of flight of steps have been completed.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Village-Panchayat at Edappalli.

83 ✻MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, has received any representation from the people of Edappalli for opening a Village-Panchayat at Edappalli Police town ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, whether any and what steps have been taken in the matter ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) Yes, a petition is reported to have been received from the member himself and a few others.

(*b*) On making necessary enquiries, the Division Peishkar found that there was no necessity to establish a Panchayat at the place.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know, with reference to the answer to part (*d*), how the Division Peishkar came to the conclusion that there was no necessity for a Village-Panchayat at Edappalli?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : On enquiry.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : I want to know how the Peishkar came to that conclusion ?

PRESIDENT : The Chief Secretary told you that it was based on enquiry. What more can you expect Government to say ? If you want to know how, on his enquiry, the Peishkar came to such a conclusion, I fear you will have to ask the Peishkar himself.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know the name of the Peishkar?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Peishkar did not conduct the enquiry himself. He got the enquiry conducted by the Tahsildar, Parur.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know the nature of the enquiry that was conducted ?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) All that I find in the report is that an enquiry was conducted by the Tahsildar. Government do not know the nature of the enquiry.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I ask whether the petitioners were informed of the result of the enquiry?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) The report of the Peishkar says that the petitioners were informed of the results of the enquiry.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : I submit, Sir, that I am one of the petitioners, in fact, the first signatory ; but I did not get any information of the enquiry.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): But the report says that the Tahsildar informed the parties-

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*); May I know the name of the Tahsildar who conducted the enquiry?

PRESIDENT : It must be the Tahsildar, Parur, at the time.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think he has since been transferred from there.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know the population and area of Edappalli?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have not got those figures with me now ; reference may be made to the Census Report.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether the Government called for a report as to the result of any enquiry by the Tahsildar, Parur ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : It was the Peishkhar that directed the Tahsildar to make the enquiry ; and Government have received the report of the Peishkhar on the results of the enquiry conducted by the Tahsildar.

MR. E. V KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether the Government were satisfied with the Peishkar's report that the enquiry was conducted only by the Tahsildar ?

PRESIDENT : Is there any statutory rule that the Division Peishkar must invariably conduct such enquiries himself ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : In that case, may I know why the Government did not rest content with forwarding the petition direct to the Tahsildar ?

PRESIDENT : Government do not have any direct correspondence with the Tahsildars. Honourable members ought to know these simple matters of procedure. Questions like that do not arise.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): My submission is that a very serious allegation has been made by the Honourable member Mr. Krishna Menon, that, although he was the first signatory in the petition, he was not consulted, nor even informed of the enquiry.

PRESIDENT: There might have been some irregularity in the enquiry that was conducted; but, on that ground, I cannot swallow a question why the Government should not have sent the petition direct to the Tahsildar.

MR E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I put that question only to impress upon the Government the seriousness of the omission to inform one of the petitioners who is not only the first signatory to the petition but is also a member of this House.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the petitioners were afforded an opportunity to make out a case that a Village-Panchayat was necessary for Edappalli?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The report of the Peishkar says that the parties were informed, that the Tahsildar made the enquiry and that he could not recommend the establishment of a Panchayat there.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Do the Government consider it a satisfactory enquiry?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a matter of opinion.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): In the matter of starting a Village-Panchayat, which is it that should prevail, the opinion of the Peishkar or the wishes of the people?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The wishes of the people will certainly be taken into consideration; but merely because some gentlemen ask for a Panchayat Government cannot immediately sanction it. They must consult their officers on the spot; and when such officers report that an enquiry has been made and that there is no need for a Panchayat, Government will naturally accept that opinion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Considering the nature of the questions put by Mr. Krishna Menon, are not the Government satisfied that a proper enquiry has not been conducted?

PRESIDENT: Again, a matter of opinion. The Honourable member may hold the view that the enquiry was not a proper one, and Government may hold the view that it is a proper. One; it is entirely a question of opinion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): For the consideration of the Chair, may I know whether the opinion of a particular party on a particular matter may not itself, at times, be a question of fact?

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MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : On a point of order, Sir, whether it is open to a member to put supplementary questions after he has once had his turn ?

PRESIDENT : He was not asking a supplementary question at all. He was just submitting a point for ruling from the Chair.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambălapuzha I*) : I want to know whether a question about the opinion of a particular party is not sometimes a question of fact.

PRESIDENT : But Mr. Asan's question was to know whether Government considered the enquiry unsatisfactory in the light of Mr. Menon's questions. That was the reason why I ruled it out of order.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*) : May I know whether the Government asked the Peishkar to make an enquiry himself or to cause an enquiry to be made ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : As a matter of fact, Sir, the petition was received only by the Peishkar and not by the Government ; and the Government did not order any enquiry. The Peishkar received the petition, ordered an enquiry and submitted his report to Government of his own accord.

Dispensary for Edappalli.

84. *MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have come to any decision regarding the grievances of the Edappalli people on account of the absence of a dispensary in the locality brought to the notice of the Government by means of representations from time to time ; and,

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) be in the negative, the reasons for the delay ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) : (*a*) and (*b*) The opening of more dispensaries in the State has been postponed to better times.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know what the Government mean by 'better times?'

PRESIDENT : Better financial times.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : Can medical relief wait for better times ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) : The answer, I thought, was very clear ; the opening of new dispensaries has to wait for better times.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : If qualified medical men are forthcoming to set up practice there, will the Government be pleased to give them grants-in-aid ?

PRESIDENT : That will be done if financial considerations permit.

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